



SUPERMAN

IN ACTION COMICS

1992
12



BY
STERN,
MCLEOD
& RODIER

PANIC
IN THE
SKY!
FOURTH STRIKE

**MIND
GRABBER!**

580,000 KILOMETERS FROM EARTH, THE MASSIVE ALIEN CONSTRUCT KNOWN AS WARWORLD CROSSES THE ORBIT OF THE MOON...

... BUT, AT THE MOMENT, SUCH DESTRUCTION IS NOT PART OF HIS GRAND DESIGN.

... ITS ASTOUNDING NULL-GRAVITY GENERATORS SPARE THE TINY PLANETOID FROM CERTAIN ANNIHILATION.

NOT THAT WARWORLD'S NEW MASTER WOULD BE TROUBLED IF THE MOON WERE RIPPED APART. ON THE CONTRARY, HE WOULD NOT HESITATE AN INSTANT TO HAVE IT OBLITERATED...

EXCELLENT ... ALL GOES WELL.

OH, DOES IT NOW, BRAINIAC? I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT JUST THE OPPOSITE ...

... OR DON'T YOU REALIZE THE DANGER YOU'VE ALLOWED INTO OUR MIDST?

DIVIDE AND CONQUER

ROGER STERN
WRITER

BOB MCLEOD & RODIER
ARTISTS

DENIS ROPIER
ARTIST

BILL CABLEY
LETTERER

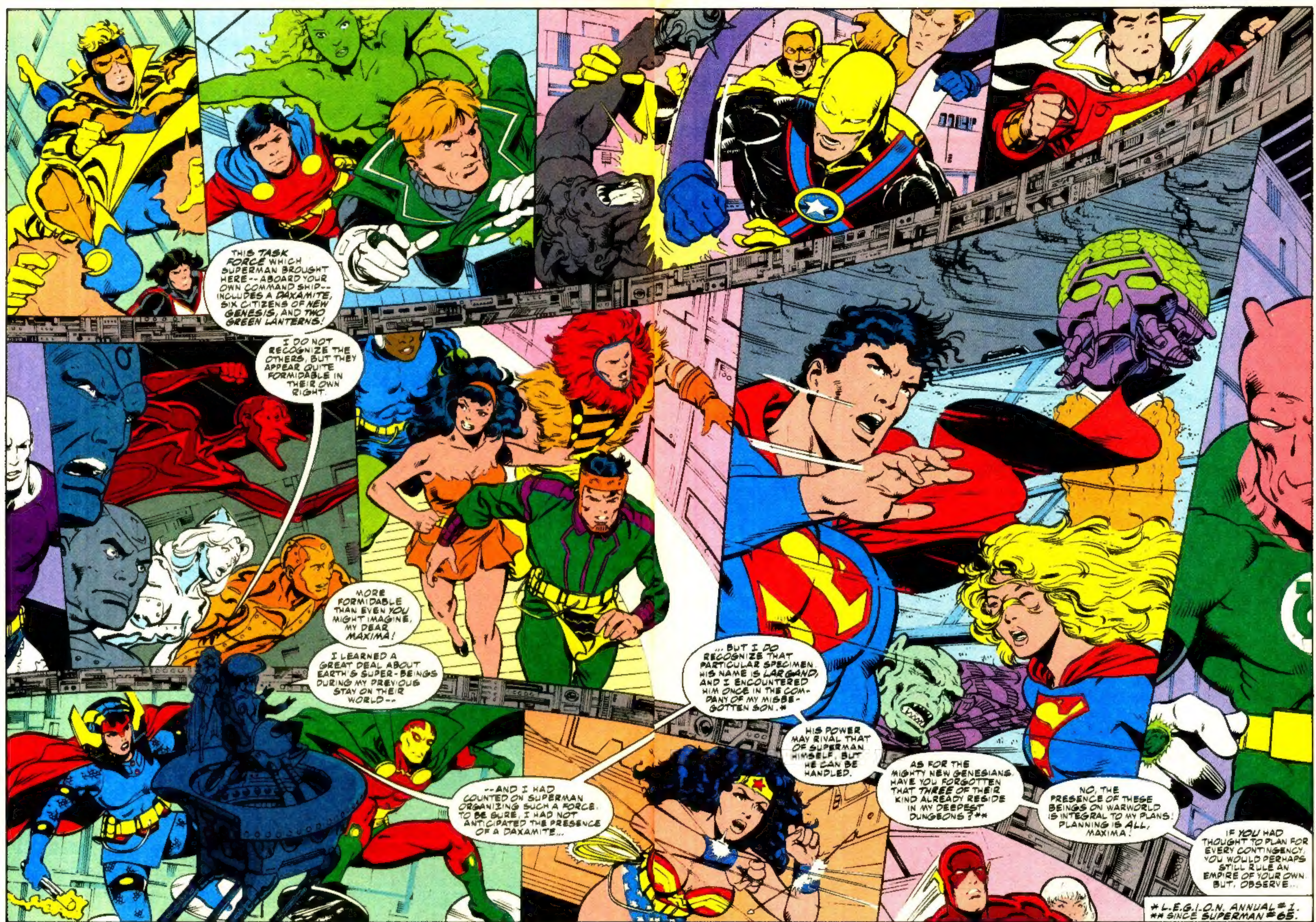
GLENN WHITHORE
COLORIST

DAN THORSLAND
ASSISTANT

MIKE CARLIN
EDITOR

SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER

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THIS TASK FORCE WHICH SUPERMAN BROUGHT HERE-- ABOARD YOUR OWN COMMAND SHIP-- INCLUDES A DAXAMITE, SIX CITIZENS OF NEW GENESIS, AND TWO GREEN LANTERNS!

I DO NOT RECOGNIZE THE OTHERS, BUT THEY APPEAR QUITE FORMIDABLE IN THEIR OWN RIGHT.

MORE FORMIDABLE THAN EVEN YOU MIGHT IMAGINE, MY DEAR MAXIMA!

I LEARNED A GREAT DEAL ABOUT EARTH'S SUPER-BEINGS DURING MY PREVIOUS STAY ON THEIR WORLD--

--AND I HAD COUNTED ON SUPERMAN ORGANIZING SUCH A FORCE. TO BE SURE, I HAD NOT ANTICIPATED THE PRESENCE OF A DAXAMITE...

... BUT I DO RECOGNIZE THAT PARTICULAR SPECIMEN. HIS NAME IS LARGAND, AND I ENCOUNTERED HIM ONCE IN THE COMPANY OF MY MISBEHAVING SON.

HIS POWER MAY RIVAL THAT OF SUPERMAN HIMSELF, BUT HE CAN BE HANDLED.

AS FOR THE MIGHTY NEW GENESIANS, HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN THAT THREE OF THEIR KIND ALREADY RESIDE IN MY DEEPEST DUNGEONS? **

NO, THE PRESENCE OF THESE BEINGS ON WARWORLD IS INTEGRAL TO MY PLANS! PLANNING IS ALL, MAXIMA!

IF YOU HAD THOUGHT TO PLAN FOR EVERY CONTINGENCY, YOU WOULD PERHAPS STILL RULE AN EMPIRE OF YOUR OWN BUT, OBSERVE...

* L.E.G.I.O.N. ANNUAL #1. ** SINCE SUPERMAN #65.

"...BY SPLITTING UP INTO SMALLER SQUADS, THEY ARE PLAYING RIGHT INTO MY HANDS!"

0.07 = 0.3¢

CAN THE KRYPTONIAN CODE WORDS FIRE -- THEY'RE AS HARD TO REMEMBER AS THEY ARE TO PRONOUNCE!

IF YOU'D PAID MORE ATTENTION AT THE PLANNING SESSION --!

HEY, I'VE GOT NO STOMACH FOR HOT AIR! IF THEY'D LET ME RUN THIS SHOW, WE'D HAVE WON BY NOW!

"THIS GUY GARDNER CREATURE BEING UNCOMMONLY SLOW OF WIT..."

"...WE SHALL BE MUCH MORE EFFECTIVE AS MY PAWN!"

NOW WHAT IS IT, GUY?

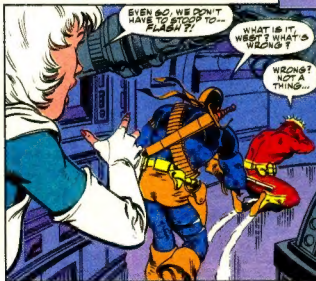
GUY?

EEYUUU--!

NONE SHALL STAND AGAINST THE WILL OF BRAINAC!

"AND THAT IS HOW YOU HANDLE A DAKAMITE MAXIMA! IT'S ACTUALLY A SIMPLE MATTER WHEN YOU CONTROL THE POWER OF A GREEN LANTERN!"

"SOON, THEY SHALL ALL BE UNDER MY CONTROL!"



--WITH SUCH AN INSIGNIFICANT WORLD?

IT IS THE WORLD THAT SUPERMAN CALLS HOME. I WOULD CONQUER IT MERELY TO HUMBLE HIM FOR HAVING DARED OPPOSE ME IN THE PAST.

BUT, IT IS NOT SO INSIGNIFICANT AS YOU PRESUME... ITS META-HUMAN POPULATION ALONE IS PROOF OF THAT. MOREOVER, IT HAS ATTRACTED DEFENDERS FROM MANY WORLDS --

--INCLUDING FABLED NEW GENESIS -- WHO HAVE ALREADY YIELDED WONDERFUL SHIELDS OF WAR! WE REMOVED THESE REMARKABLE DEVICES FROM THE WARRIORS ORION AND LIGHTNAY UPON THEIR CAPTURE...

YOU SEEM SURPRISED, BRAINIAC. DIDN'T YOUR MUCH-VAUNTED CONTINGENCY PLANS COVER SUCH AN OCCURRENCE?

HER TWO BILLION INHABITANTS ARE MINE TO COMMAND! HER VERY LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS ARE UNDER MY DIRECT CONTROL!

THUS AM I ABLE TO LASH OUT WITH THE FURY OF THE STORM AT SUPERMAN AND THE FAITHLESS SUPERGIRL!

"FAITHLESS"? WHAT COLLOSAL EGO! IN HIS DISTRACTION, HE FAILED TO MAINTAIN HIS HOLD ON HER MIND!

I SHALL BECOME LIKE UNTO A FORCE OF NATURE IN HAVING MY REVENGE UPON THOSE TWO.

IT MATTERS NOT.

THERE REMAINS MUCH OF WHICH I MAY STILL TAKE ADVANTAGE... NEVER FORGET, ALL OF WARWORLD IS MINE!

AND WHAT OF THE OTHERS TRAPPED IN THE ARENA BY YOUR STORM? WHAT OF DRAAGA?

WHAT OF THEM?

...THEY ARE CALLED "MOTHER BOXES," AND THEY APPEAR TO BE -- BHT!

AARREE

THEY APPEAR TO HAVE SELF-DESTRUCTED.

* IN ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN # 488.

"THEY ARE OF LITTLE IMPORTANCE!"

DRAAGA'S NOT
FARING TOO WELL
IN THESE WINDS...
AND EVEN SUPER-
GIRL'S GETTING
DISORIENTED!

SUPERGIRL!
TAKE SHELTER
WITH DRAAGA
IN THAT SHIP!

IN BRAINIAC'S
HEAD-SHIP?
BUT--!

TRUST
ME, IT'S
YEEAR!

SUPERMAN!!

I'M...
OKAY... GO
ON, I'LL
JOIN YOU--

"--IN THE SHIP!"

I FEAR THE BATTLE
DOES NOT GO WELL.
AH, WELL... WE
KNEW IT WOULD
NOT BE EASY...

...AT LEAST, IN
TAPPING THE POWER
OF THIS REMARKABLE
MOBIUS CHAIR, I
HAVE BEEN ABLE TO
SHIELD THE INTERIOR
OF BRAINIAC'S
CRAFT FROM HIS
PROBING MIND.

I MUST TAKE
SOLACE IN--

PING
PING PING

WHAT
IS
THIS?!

THEY MATERIALIZED OUT OF THIN AIR... JUST AS THE MOBIUS CHAIR DID ON EARTH. THESE MOTHER BOX UNITS BELONG TO ORION AND LIGHTRAY...

...THEY TELEPORTED HERE RATHER THAN SUBMIT TO BRAINIAC'S ANALYSIS. YES... THEY ARE SOMEHOW TELLING ME THAT... TELLING ME SO MUCH...

PING
PING
PING

WHO ARE YOU? AND WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!

HE POSSESSES THE CHAIR OF THE CAPTIVE METRON! WHAT MANNER OF CREATURE ARE YOU?!

I AM CALLED DUBBIELEX. I CAME HERE IN THE COMPANY OF SUPERMAN AND HIS FELLOW HEROES.

AND DESPITE MY APPEARANCE, I AM OF THE PLANET EARTH.

NO ONE ON EARTH LOOKS LIKE THAT!

NOT AT THE MOMENT, NO... BUT I ASSURE YOU, MY ORIGINS WERE PURELY TERRESTRIAL...

...AS WERE YOURS, SUPERGIRL... THOUGH I SEE THAT YOUR EARTH WAS SOMEWHAT REMOVED FROM MINE.

H-HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT?

MOTHER BOX? YES... I REMOVED THIS FROM LIGHTRAY... AFTER I SUBDUED HIM. * RECALL NOW... THE REEF TINGLE... SO WONDERFUL...

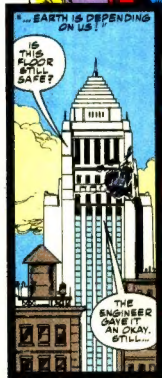
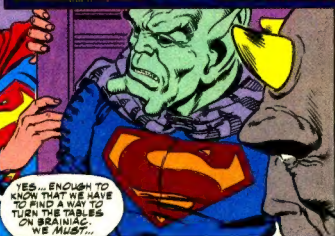
SUPERGIRL, NO! WE BOTH JUST ESCAPED THE HOLD OF BRAINIAC--!

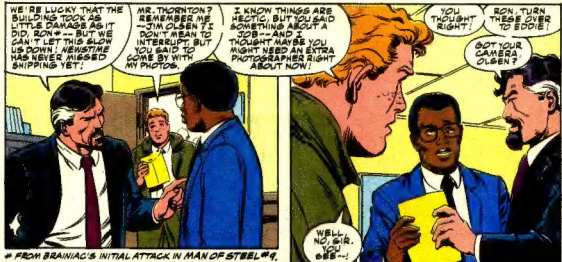
PING
PING
PING

I RECEIVED MY INFORMATION FROM THE MOTHER BOX. I BELIEVE THAT IT GATHERED THE DATA FROM YOU IN PASSING.

THERE IS NO NEED TO FEAR A MOTHER BOX, DRAAGA.

* IN SUPERMAN #65.







"...HELP FROM ON HIGH



<NOW WHAT?>

TEAM LUTHOR REPORTING, SIR! SORRY WE WERE SO LATE IN GETTING HERE, BUT OUR WEAPONS CAME OUT OF FIELD TESTING JUST A MINUTE AGO!

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER

BATMAN
HOW DO WE
LOOK FROM
THE AIR?

BETTER ALL THE TIME, BATMAN

LEX LUTHOR'S BOYS REALLY TOOK THE INVADERS BY SURPRISE.

AND UNLESS MY EYES DECEIVE ME, YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET SOME ARMORED GROUND SUPPORT ON YOUR RIGHT FLANK!

YOU GOT THAT RIGHT, "BUG-MAN"...

"THIS IS INSPECTOR TURPIN OF THE SPECIAL CRIMES UNIT-- AND WE'RE LOADED FOR 'B.E.M.S.'"

PRESSURE'S AT THE RED-LINE, INSPECTOR.

AWRIGHT THEN, BAYAS--

--LET 'ER RIP!

LOOKS LIKE THIS IS THEIR FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH A WATER CANNON!

FWOOSH

ENJOY YOUR SHOWER, BOYS.





SH? FORGOTTEN WHAT, MAXIMA?

THE WARRIORS YOU TELEPORTED TO EARTH... THERE HAS BEEN NO WORD FROM THEM SINCE THEIR DEPARTURE.

THEY ARE OF NO GREAT CONCERN... THEY ARE BUT CANNON FODDER.

THERE IS WHAT DOES CONCERN ME -- MY COMMAND SHIP!



I KNOW THAT DAMNABLE O.N.A.L.I.E.N. FREAK DUBBIEK IS IN THERE! I HAVE SUBVERTED HIS WILL BEFORE...

...HOW IS HE ABLE TO RESIST ME NOW? NOW? NOW?



I ALLOWED SUPERMAN AND HIS ALLIES TO CAPTURE IT. THAT WAS ALL PART OF MY PLAN. I KNEW THAT I COULD TURN IT AGAINST THEM LATER.

BUT NOW... I CANNOT EVEN PIERCE ITS SHIELDS!

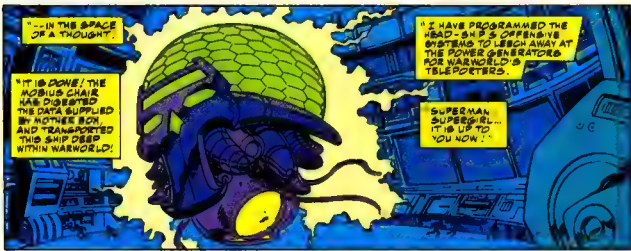


OKAY, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE MOBIUS CHAIR IS KEEPING US SECURE, BUT WE'RE STILL TRAPPED HERE.

IT CAN DO FAR MORE THAN YOU IMAGINE --

IF ONLY WE COULD ACCESS WARWORLD'S TELEPORT SYSTEMS.

DUBBIEK, THE CHAIR CAN TELEPORT. CAN IT --?

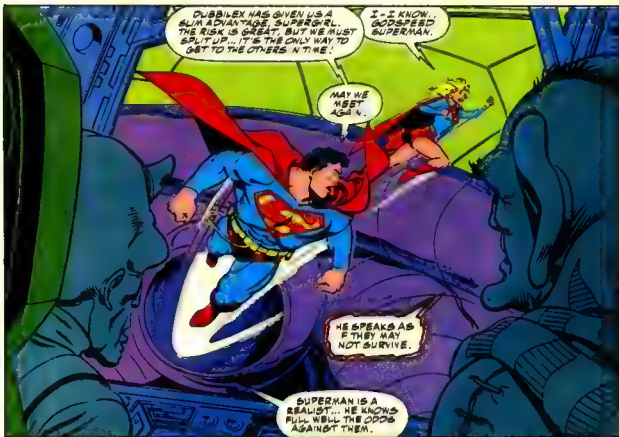


"--IN THE SPACE OF A THOUGHT."

"IT IS DONE! THE MOBIUS CHAIR HAS DIGESTED THE DATA SUPPLIED BY MOTHER BOB, AND TRANSPORTED THIS SHIP DEEP WITHIN WARWORLD!"

"I HAVE PROGRAMMED THE HEAD-SHIP'S OFFENSIVE SYSTEMS TO LEACH AWAY AT THE POWER GENERATORS FOR WARWORLD'S TELEPORTERS."

SUPERGIRL... IT IS UP TO YOU NOW."



DUBILEX HAS GIVEN US A
SLIM ADVANTAGE, SUPERGIRL.
THE RISK IS GREAT, BUT WE MUST
SPLIT UP... IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO
GET TO THE OTHERS IN TIME.

I - I KNOW...
GODSPEED
SUPERMAN.

MAY WE
MEET
AGAIN.

HE SPEAKS AS
IF THEY MAY
NOT SURVIVE.

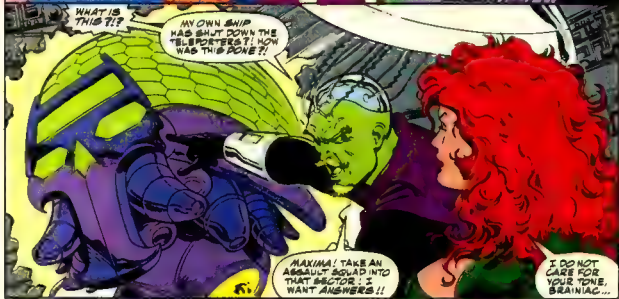
SUPERMAN IS A
REALIST... HE KNOWS
FULL WELL THE ODDS
AGAINST THEM.



I SHOULD HAVE
ACCOMPANIED
THEM. I WAS
BRED FOR
BATTLE.

WE SHALL ALL
SEE BATTLE BE-
FORE THIS IS OVER.

WE NO LONGER
REQUIRE THE SHIP'S
SANCTUARY. DUTY
CALLED US ELSE-
WHERE... AND THE
CHAIR SHALL BEAR
US THERE.

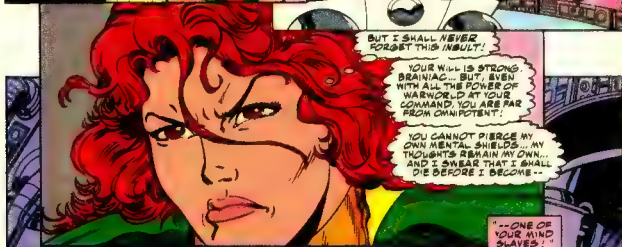
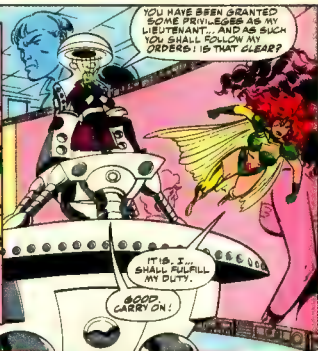


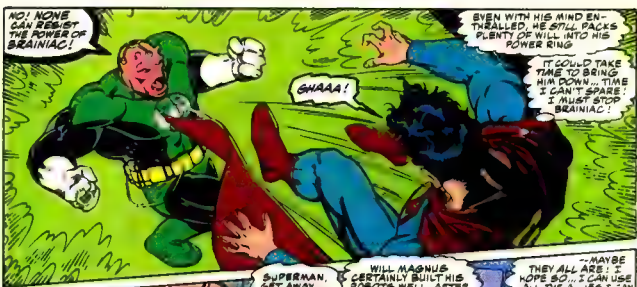
WHAT IS
THIS?!

MY OWN SHIP
HAS SHUT DOWN THE
TELEPORTER? HOW
WAS THIS DONE?!

MAXIMA! TAKE AN
ASSAULT SQUAD INTO
THAT SECTOR. I
WANT ANSWERS!!

I DO NOT
CARE FOR
YOUR TONE,
BRAINAC...



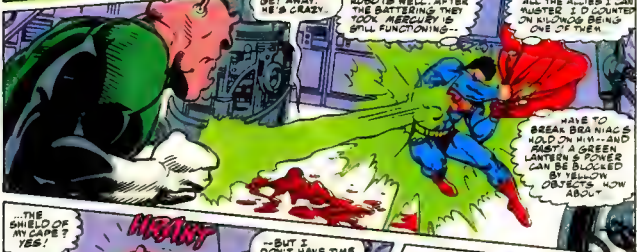


NO! NONE CAN RESIST THE POWER OF BRAINIAC!

EVEN WITH HIS MIND EN-THRALLED, HE STILL PACKS PLENTY OF WILL INTO HIS POWER RING

IT COULD TAKE TIME TO BRING HIM DOWN... TIME I CAN'T SPARE! I MUST STOP BRAINIAC!

SHAAA!

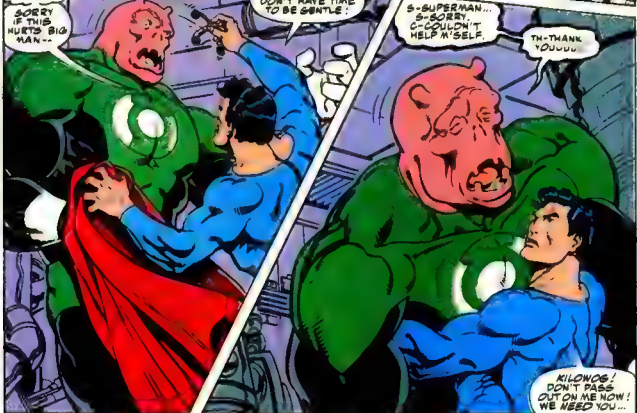


SUPERMAN, GET AWAY, HE'S CRAZY.

WILL MAGNUS CERTAINLY BUILT HIS ROBOTS WELL.. AFTER THE BATTERING THEY TOOK MERCURY IS STILL FUNCTIONING--

--MAYBE THEY ALL ARE! I HOPE SO... I CAN USE ALL THE ALIES I CAN MUSTER. I'D COUNTED ON KILNORG BEING ONE OF THEM

HAVE TO BREAK BRAINIAC'S HOLD ON HIM--AND FAST! A GREEN LANTERN'S POWER CAN BE BLOCKED BY YELLOW OBJECTS NOW ABOUT



...THE SHIELD OF MY CAPE? YES!

SORRY IF THIS HURTS BIG MAN--

--BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE GENTLE!

S-SUPERMAN... S-SORRY... C-COULDN'T HELP M'SELF

TH-THANK YOUUUU

KILNORG! DON'T PASS OUT ON ME NOW! WE NEED YOU...



"...WE NEED ALL OF YOU!"

HOW'S IT GOING, VYKIN?

ROUGH, MARK. I'VE MAGNETIZED OVER TWO DOZEN WARRIORS TO THE WALLS... BUT MORE KEEP COMING!



REST A SPELL, VYKE. A COSMIC CARTRIDGE WILL HOLD 'EM BACK, FORCE-FIELD STYLE WHILE WE CATCH OUR BREATHS!

GOOD WORK, SERIFAN, BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD TO STAY ON THE DEFENSIVE--



--WE HAVE TO FIND THE POWER BEHIND THE HORDES-- BRAINIAC-- AND STOP HIM... IF NOT THIS WAY, THEN ANOTHER!



WE'LL NEVER GET THROUGH THESE HORDES. BIG BEAR!

TELL ME ABOUT IT, DREAMER...

...WHILE I'M MAKING US A NEW CORRIDOR, WHY DON'T YOU GIVE THE GUYS A HAND... MAKE WITH ONE OF YOUR ILLUSIONS!



IT DOESN'T TAKE THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON TO SEE THAT YOU KIDS NEED A HAND!

DON'T WORRY. I CAN HANDLE THIS SOCIETY OF MONSTERS!

HE-E-E-Y, NICE WORK, DREAMER!

THAT'S NO ILLUSION, BEAR... HE'S THE REAL CAPTAIN MARVEL!



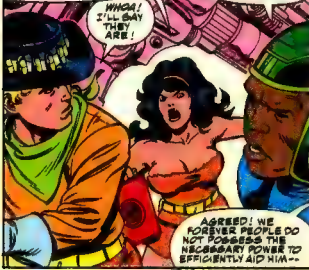
PHEN!! THERE'S A LOT MORE OF THESE BRUISEES THAN I THOUGHT. THIS COULD TAKE A WHILE!

OH, NO!

BEAUTIFUL DREAMER, COME ON! BIG BEAR'S BROKEN THROUGH!

NO, WE CAN'T RUN OFF NOW! BRAINIAC'S HORDES ARE SURROUNDING CAPTAIN MARVEL!

YOU'RE RIGHT, DREAMER. WE MUST NOT ABANDON HIM.



WHOA! I'LL SAY THEY ARE!

AGREED! WE FOREVER PEOPLE DO NOT POSSESS THE NECESSARY POWER TO EFFICIENTLY AID HIM--

--BUT THERE IS ONE WHO DOES! WE MUST PUT ASIDE OUR EGOS AND BEGIN THE RITUAL!

PING PING PING



MOTHER BOX KNOWS! ALREADY, SHE RISES!

JOIN US TOGETHER, MOTHER--



TAARU!



I HAVE BEEN SUMMONED... I HAVE RETURNED!

TAKE HEART, CAPTAIN MARVEL! YOU ARE NOT ALONE --



--THE INFINITY MAN FIGHTS BY YOUR SIDE!

INFINITY MAN, EH? WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT WE HAVE MORE IN COMMON THAN JUST AN ENEMY? OH, WELL...

THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, I. M. --

"...WE CAN ALL USE
A HELPING HAND
NOW AND THEN!"

YOU--
STOP!!

???

BARDA, PLEASE...
YOU'RE
KILLING
ME!

LET HIM GO!
YOU'RE
STRANGLING
YOUR OWN
HUSBAND!

H-HUSBAND--?

!-IT
MATTERS
NOT...

BARDA? OF COURSE...
FROM THE DESCRIPTIONS
SUPERMAN AND DUBBILIX
GAVE ME, THIS MUST BE BIG
BARDA AND... MR. MIRACLES!
BUT... THEY'RE MARRIED!

... ONLY
THE WILL OF
BRAINIAC
MATTERS!

ONLY... ONE...
CHANCE...!

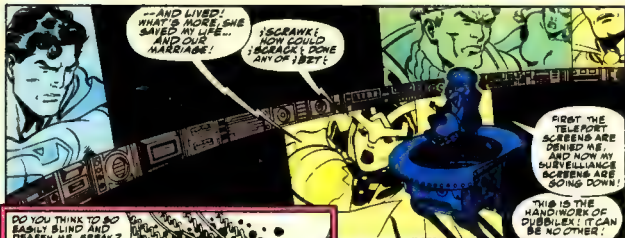
NO... NO!! THIS
CANNOT BE
HAPPENING!

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I... THINK SO.

SCOTT...
WHAT--?

THIS
YOUNG LADY
JUST TOOK A
BLAST FROM YOUR
MEGA-ROD--



--AND LIVED!
WHAT'S MORE, SHE
SAVED MY LIFE...
AND OUR
MARRIAGE!

!SCRAWK!
HOW COULD
!SCRACK! DONE
ANY OF !BET!

FIRST THE
TELEPORT
SCREENS ARE
DENIED ME,
AND NOW MY
SURVEILLANCE
SCREENS ARE
GOING DOWN!

THIS IS THE
HANDIWORK OF
DUBBLEX! IT CAN
BE NO OTHER!



DO YOU THINK TO SO
EASILY BLIND AND
DEAFEN ME, FREAK?
YOU WILL NOT STAY
HIDDEN FROM ME
FOREVER! I
SWEAR...

... MY FORCES
WILL HUNT YOU
DOWN LIKE THE
DOG YOU
ARE!

IT IS GOOD TO HAVE AN
AX IN HAND ONCE MORE
I FEEL CONFIDENT NOW
THAT WE SHALL PREVAIL



I WISH I SHARED
YOUR CONFIDENCE, MY
FRIEND! CHOOSE YOUR
WEAPON QUICKLY...
MUCH REMAINS FOR US
TO DO IF WE HOPE TO
END THE THREAT
OR --



--AHNNK!

WHAT IS IT
DUBBLEX? WHAT IS WRONG?



WE MUST
MAKE HASTE,
DEAGA. I
CAN FEEL
BRAINIAC'S
RAGE
GROWING...

"...AND I FEAR
THAT HE IS
BECOMING
DESPERATE!"

HEAR
ME, MY
THRALES...

...YOU
SHALL HUNT
DOWN MY
ENEMIES--

--AND
OBLITERATE
THEM!!

"PANIC IN THE SKY" CONTINUES
NEXT WEEK IN SUPERMAN:
THE MAN OF STEEL #10'S
FEAR-FRAUGHT TALE:

TIDAL WAVE!

RE:ACTION

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Dear Actioneers:
Re: ACTION #671

"Where were YOU when the lights went out?!"

The "Blackout" series is proving to be the most unusual story in the SUPERMAN titles yet! It was frightening enough that someone could take control of Superman's mind and body like Mr. Z did in chapter one. With Professor Hamilton's help, events took an even more bizarre turn in "Missing in Action." All the fast-moving changes in Roger Stern's story made the issue seem to double in size and become twice as exciting! Where else can you find a plesiosaur, an Antarctic expedition, a tropical island, and a teeming city plunged into darkness all in the same issue?

Superman's amnesia is being handled realistically and believably. Since his powers developed over time, it makes sense that his rediscovery of them would be a difficult struggle. Even in his present condition, he still remains a hero. The most jarring incident, though, was when Mr. Z died, and then later came back to life! I'm anxious to see the next chapter and observe these two memory-stricken men stranded on this prehistoric island.

The timely arrival of Lex Luthor II was fascinating. This friendly, affable young giant is making such a good impression, I keep wondering what's in store for the Man of Steel and friends when the blackout is over, especially if and when Lex Jr. makes good on his promise to rescue Metropolis.

Kieron Dwyer and Brad Vancata did a beautiful job of handling all the exotic locales and characters in this story. My favorite scenes in the book were in Metropolis with the power failure. I was excited to see the Thorn and Gangbuster meet, and I got a kick out of reading their impressions of each other! Rose Forrest's transformation into the Thorn was also the smoothest I've ever read concerning this character's transition. Well done! Glenn Whitmore also deserves praise for an exceptional job!

I'll be sitting here with my candles and book of matches till Chapter Three of "Blackout" comes out, or the lights come back on, whichever comes first...

Neil Ahlquist
Minneapolis, MN

Dear Dan and Mike:

Only last week was I quoting from the introduction to the ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN television program in my commendation of the creative personnel behind the Man of Tomorrow. To see in the script of ACTION COMICS #671 those same lines being spoken by a French-speaking character, well, talk about déjà vu...! Anyway, I'm writing to extol Dan Jurgens and Bob McLeod's splendid cover, as well as to credit the colorist who made the book stand out on the comics rack on which it was displayed alongside dozens of other comics.

The conflict woven for the Man of Steel is interesting indeed. "The Isle That Time Forgot," indeed! According to the coordinates the pilot or navigator called out as the plane went down—135 degrees west—the location of the aforementioned isle would be somewhere in the west Pacific. That eliminates the Bermuda Triangle scenario. Those coordinates lie in unclaimed territory, and perhaps this is the reason why. File that under things that make you go "Hmmm?"

Kieron Dwyer's pinch hit pencils were very good, but I'm really looking forward to Jon Bogdanove's terrible lizard renditions. So, until the next installment of "Mr. Z and Superman together again for the first time," I bid you adieu.

Kevin J. Conley
Methuen, MA

Dear Super-Team:

Four years ago this month I was attending a SF/comics convention in Houston with my friend George. He managed a bookstore, and was there as a dealer. I jumped at his invite to attend the Con, having always been into science fiction myself. As for comics, though, it had been years since I'd read one!

As I wandered the dealers room, I came across a comics table. At the front of one box was a book with a cover that grabbed me. Superman was lying on the ground—obviously in pain—with a shadowy robot standing over him amidst the rubble. "It's your first issue, Superman—and it could be your last!" proclaimed the cover.

My mind raced. "First issue?" Supes had been around for years! I asked myself: "What did they do to the Man of Steel?" I thought about it the rest of the day, and made certain I bought a copy of this intriguing book.

When we got back to George's bookstore, I noticed for the first time the small rack of comics he had.

I bought a few, including another SUPERMAN. This one had a cover with Lois leaving a flabbergasted Supes for a short guy with a bowler hat and a cigar—an imp I remembered from my childhood. I loved both issues. Shortly thereafter another convention came along, and I picked up a miniseries called THE MAN OF STEEL. From that moment on, my fate was sealed...

Four years and 5000 comics later, the pride of my collection is one solid box of every post-Crisis Super-title you've published, including various specials like SUPERMAN FOR EARTH, WORLD'S FINEST, etc.

Why am I writing all this? These past few days I was home from work sick. During that time I reread most of the SUPERMAN books, as I've done before. It struck me just how much I enjoyed these titles, and have enjoyed them from the beginning. I like to speculate on what will happen next, amazed at how you guys dare to let these characters change and grow.

So, I wanted to say thank you. No other comics series gives me more pleasure on such a consistent basis. Thanks to every member of the Super-team, past and present; none have failed to make a positive contribution. Thanks to Mike Carlin, who has handled this (now) four-ring circus almost from the beginning, and so well! To every letterer who helped tell so much story in so little space, and to each colorist for giving us beautiful skies for Superman to fly across. To the artists who draw Gangbuster so well, and to the inkers who help bring Perry White to life. And most of all, thank you to the writers who dream up all this stuff so imaginatively!

During Brainiac's genesis you kept telling us "Trust us!". Hey, I always did and still do—you haven't let me down yet!

Before I go, thank you, George, wherever you keep yourself these days. Everybody should have a friend to turn them on to great reading like this. Thanks again, folks, and keep it up!

David M. Lambert
Memphis, TN

We'll do our best, David, and we hope you're feeling better. In case you aren't, though, we're going to send you a get-well Baldy Award, a well-known tonic for whatever is ailin' ya! Heck, even if it just puts a smile on your face, great! Your letter did the same for us!

Dear Super-Ones:

First he gets exiled to space, then he gets lost in time, now he's got amnesia...it's getting so Clark doesn't need an apartment—he's never there...

I admit, I wasn't sure I would enjoy this plotline for that exact reason. It started sounding repetitive; every few months Superman is stuck away from his friends and family. But this issue was absolutely wonderful. Superman walking around in a daze, unable to remember anything, that was good. But the story really kicked into high gear when Mr. Z came back to life. The two of them, innocent as newborn (and in Mr. Z's case, REborn) babes, immediately assume they're friends, and set to cooperating. The idea of Mr. Z spraining his ankle when he tries to fly like his friend did was absolutely priceless.

The scenes in Metropolis were also quite interesting. As I've said in the past, I really like seeing the goings-on in Metropolis in the titles, especially the stuff that Superman isn't exactly involved in. The city does not revolve around Superman; it's nice that the books don't always, either. And it sure seems like Lex Luthor Jr. has the same sense of flair and showmanship that his father has (oh, excuse me, "HAD." I forgot... He's dead, isn't he? Yeah...). By the time Superman gets back, I'm reasonably sure people will once again know who's really the savior of

Metropolis, and it won't be a strange visitor from another planet.

Anyway, keep it up.

Vinnie Bartilucci
Elmont, NY

He's dead, Vinnie...

—Dan Thorland
I'm an Assistant Editor,
Not a Doctor!

IN ONE WEEK: Superman and his brave band of heroes have survived Brainiac's insidious devices so far...so far! With Draaga's aid, Superman may be able to bring "Panic in the Sky" to a quick resolution, but not without casualties! Don't miss Strike Five of "Panic in the Sky" in **SUPERMAN: THE MAN OF STEEL #10**, by Louise Simonson, Jon Bogdanove, and Dennis Janke.

IN TWO WEEKS: in **SUPERMAN #86**, the Man of Steel is determined to end this conflict with no more casualties—but the choice isn't wholly his! Brainiac is backed into a corner and, as we all know, a desperate villain is a dangerous one! What has Brainy got up his sleeve? Find out in "Panic in the Sky," Final Strike, by Dan Jurgens and Brett Breeding.

IN THREE WEEKS: It's finally over, "Panic in the Sky" has reached its deadly conclusion, and Metropolis may never be the same! Join in the festivities when the returning heroes are treated to a ticker-tape parade! PLUS: Emil Hamilton cleans up his lab! Doesn't sound too exciting? You should know us better by now! Be here when Jerry Ordway, Tom Grummett, and Doug Hazlewood bring us **THE ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN #489**—and bring a broom!

IN ONE MONTH: in **ACTION COMICS #676**, there's a contract out for Lex Luthor II, and Hellgrammite's the man for the job! Is this all a ruse to win public sympathy, or is the seemingly honest young billionaire in real danger? Join Roger Stern, new Super-penciller Jackson Guice, and Denis Rodier for the bug-hunt, and this time bring a can of Raid!

Boy, a few minor victories can sure give an alien despot a swelled head! This issue's gloriously glowering cover was pencilled by Dan Jurgens, inked by Bob McLeod, and colored by Glenn Whitmore. Give em' a hand—or two!

Q:
Why doesn't
Robin want to
guest-star in
THE DEMON?



A:
Read
THE DEMON
23 and 24
to find out!



SOOPAH-BEAST, SOOPAH-BEAST!
HE'S SOOPAH-BEASTLY!